

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01

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R 171844Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9571

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1075

AMEMBASY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, EX

SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REFS: A. ROME 13205 B. EC BRUSSELS 8199, SEPT. 14 (NOTAL)

1. DURING A MEETING WITH MISSION OFFICERS, KLAUS MEYER, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EC COMMISSION, REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. HE RECALLED THAT AT THE JULY MEETING IN ROME A DECISION ON THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB EXPERTS HAD BEEN LEFT IN ABEYANCE WITH THE COMMUNIQUE SIMPLY NOTING THAT "BOTH SIDES RECOMMEND A MEETING OF EXPERTS IN NOVEMBER 1975". THE EC SIDE HAD MAINTAINED THAT IT COULD NOT AGREE TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARAB REQUEST FOR A MEETING OF THE AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL

GENERAL COMMISSION (WHICH MEYER DESCRIBED AS THE "CODE WORD" FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS), WHILE THE ARABS INSISTED THAT THEY HAD NO MANDATE TO AGREE TO ANOTHER MEETING AT THE EXPERT LEVEL. MEYER SAID THAT THE EC IS THEREFORE WAITING FOR A DECISION FROM THE ARAB SIDE WHICH HE ANTICIPATES WILL EMERGE FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL.

2. IN THE MEANTIME THE EC EXPERTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS OF THE DIALOGUE ARE CONTINUING TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS FOR A NOVEMBER MEETING. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT THE EC EXPERTS COMMITTEE (WHICH REPORTS TO THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS) HAS SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR ROME ON SEPTEMBER 30 WHERE THEY EXPECT TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO IF THE ARABS PERSIST IN THEIR DEMAND FOR A GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING. MEYER CHARACTERIZED THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE BY EC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN VENICE AS INCONCLUSIVE; HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION IS THAT MOST OF THE MEMBER STATES ARE "NOT TOO KEEN" ON AGREEING TO A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION. IN MEYER'S VIEW, THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GENERAL COMMISSION COULD MEET WITHOUT GETTING INTO POLITICAL SUBJECTS (APPARENTLY PUT FORWARD AT THE VENICE MEETING) LACKED CREDIBILITY SINCE IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID POLITICAL SUBJECTS IF AMBASSADORS WERE PRESENT. GREENWALD

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